

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 IO-10

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O 051150Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8806

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 0252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: FIFTH DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

A) PHNOM PENH 244; B) PHNOM PENH 177

1. SUMMARY. THE ENEMY THREAT IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTH OF PHNOM PENH HAS LESSENED CONSIDERABLY THANKS IN LARGE PART TO EXCELLENT AIR SUPPORT AND AGGRESSIVE GROUND ACTION. FANK IS CONSOLIDATING ITS DEFENSE WEST AND NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL IN ANTICIPATION OF FURTHER ENEMY PRESSURE IN THAT SECTOR. END SUMMARY.

2. FANK REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE BELEAGUERED 7TH DIVISION POSITIONS (SEE REF A) SUCCEEDED IN PUSHING WEST FROM ROUTE 5 AND LINKING UP WITH THE DIVISION LOGISTICS BASE ON JANUARY 5. A LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTION. KC PRESSURE ON THE 7TH DIVISION COMMAND POST HAS ALSO LESSENED CONSIDERABLY, THANKS TO EXCELLENT AIR SUPPORT DURING THE NIGHT OF JAN. 4-5 AND THROUGHOUT THE DAY. THE SITUATION IS NOW
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BELIEVED TO BE UNDER CONTROL, AND THE LINK-UP WITH THE

DIVISION COMMAND POST IS HOPED FOR SHORTLY. HOWEVER, THE MAIN MILITARY OIL DEPOT ALONG ROUTE 5 REMAINS VULNERABLE TO ATTACKS BY FIRE.

3. THREE 107MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED INTO THE CITY FROM THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG DURING THE EVENING OF JANUARY 4, WOUNDING ONE PERSON. FOUR MORE CAME IN THE FOLLOWING MORNING WITH ONE PERSON REPORTED KILLED AND TEN WOUNDED. TWO PARATROOP BATTALIONS CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO CLEAN UP ENEMY POCKETS OF RESISTANCE ON THE EAST BANK. ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION THERE IS STABLE, THE ENEMY TROOPS ARE STUBBORNLY RESISTING EFFORTS TO ROOT THEM OUT AND THUS ARE PREVENTING REDEPLOYMENT OF FRIENDLY FORCES BADLY NEEDED ELSEWHERE.

4. FANK FORCES NORTH OF ROUTE 4 WITHDREW FROM TWO OUTPOSTS ON JANUARY 5, BUT THESE POSITIONS WERE RETAKEN BY MID-DAY JAN 5. IN THE IMPORTANT AREA NORTH OF ROUTE 4 AND NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH WHERE POCHENTONG AIRFIELD AND THE PRINCIPAL AMMUNITION DEPOT ARE LOCATED, FANK FORCES LINKED UP AND FORMED A DEFENSIVE LINE IN PREPARATION FOR ADDITIONAL KC ATTACKS IN THIS SECTOR WHICH ARE EXPECTED SHORTLY.

5. A DELAYED ACTION REPORT INDICATES THAT AS THE FANK 36TH BRIGADE RETREATED ON JAN 3 NORTHWEST FROM ROUTE 1 (WHICH RUNS SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH ALONG THE MEKONG), ONE OF ITS BATTALIONS SUFFERED 200 CASUALTIES. ANOTHER BATTALION FROM THE SAME BRIGADE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DESTROYED WITH MANY OF ITS PERSONNEL CAPTURED BY THE KC (REFTEL B).

6. ELSEWHERE AROUND THE CITY AND ALONG THE MEKONG, THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO REPORT. THE NEXT MEKONG CONVOY IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JAN 10.
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